

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

GREGORY L. HITHCOCK,

CASE NO. 2:21-cv-01475-JHC

Plaintiff,

ORDER APPOINTING SETTLEMENT
JUDGE

V.

BERING STAR LLC,

Defendant.

Local Civil Rule 39.1(e) states that “the court may appoint a settlement judge who may conduct a settlement conference in such manner as that settlement judge may deem appropriate.” Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 39.1(e).

The parties have expressed via email that appointment of a settlement judge would be beneficial. The Court concludes that this matter is appropriate for referral to a settlement judge pursuant to Local Civil Rule 39.1(e). Accordingly, the Court hereby APPOINTS the Honorable Michelle L. Peterson, United States Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Washington, to serve as settlement judge in this case. Counsel are directed to communicate with Judge Peterson, through her chambers' staff, about the delivery and length of settlement briefs, any other materials that should be provided, and the time, place, and format of the settlement conference.

1 At any settlement conference Judge Peterson may hold, all parties are to be represented
2 by counsel (including lead trial counsel) and by principals (and insurers, if applicable) having
3 full authority to enter into a settlement agreement, and to change pre-existing settlement
4 authority without consulting someone else who is not present. This requirement may be waived
5 only by advance ruling of the settlement judge.

6 The parties are further ORDERED to inform the Court immediately if this matter has
7 been resolved. The Court DIRECTS the Clerk to provide Judge Peterson a copy of this order.

8 Dated this 24th day of August, 2023.

9 

10 John H. Chun
11 United States District Judge